



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester  
**Staff Sgt. Nicole Boone, a contracting specialist with the Regional Contracting Office, picks up her two children Aaron, 8 months, and Michael, 3, from the Child Development Center. “Sometimes the family gets forgotten, and it is important to show appreciation for what they do,” said Boone.**

# Military salutes families for sacrifice, dedication with observance in Nov.

**LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER**  
*STAFF WRITER*

Physical training, a full workday, picking up the kids from daycare, preparing dinner and cleaning the house are a few of the many tasks required of a military family. They do all of this with little or no time off to recoup and still must maintain a positive family atmosphere.

To show appreciation for the hard work and sacrifices made by military families, the DOD has designated November as Military Family Month.

According to Mary Craig, Headquarters, Marine Corps Military Family Month coordinator, military families deserve additional appreciation because of frequent relocations and deployments.

“Military family month provides commands and installations a chance to appreciate the contributions of the Marine Corps family,” said Craig.

“This kind of event brings the sacrifices to the forefront, it brings it to peoples attention so as not to take advantage of the fact that they have family at home,” said Mary Keough, the wife of a retired Marine.

The contributions families make to the

military are considered by many to be equally as important as the contributions of the service members themselves.

“You have to be independent as a wife and you have to take control of everything and then be willing to relinquish that control,” said Keough. “In some cases, a military wife must be prepared to leave her hometown and extended families to be with her spouse, and that can be a hardship in itself.”

The families of the armed forces display daily the grit and courage to stay positive while meeting the challenges of military life head on.

“Thinking positively and being open to change will let the children know that daddy will be home soon,” Keough said. “But think negatively and the children will pick up on that.”

Setting that example at home represents strength that can reflect right back to the service member as well.

Staff Sgt. Nicole Boone, a contracting specialist with the Regional Contracting Office, compared that strength to the human body in saying, “The family is our backbone. It is always nice to have that kind of support at home. Sometimes the family gets forgotten and

it is important to show appreciation for what they do. For example, the children make great sacrifices when we are in training situations such as going to the range or on temporary additional duty.”

Whether one or both parents are in the service, the sacrifice made by either represents exactly what this month is intended to honor.

“It is a little more strenuous being in the military because of things like having to pull duty, but both parents sacrifice equally,” said Staff Sgt. Laurie Gavigan, messaging chief for Computer System Support Facility.

Small sacrifices that are bigger than they appear, like missing dinner or time with one’s children to pull duty are the kinds of things that families are doing to keep things in control.

“Families are taking care of things on the home front so Marines can focus on the mission,” said Craig.

Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina celebrates the week of Nov. 23-28 as Military Family Appreciation Week. Additionally the Child Development Center will hold a family luncheon on Nov. 21.

## Lending a hand for the holidays ...



Cpl. Thomas Perry



Cpl. Thomas Perry

**(Left) Chaplain Ralph Gibson, Assistant Chief of Staff for Religious Ministries, and Col. Michael A. Malachowsky, the Depot Chief of Staff, receive a \$1,500 check from Sun City Veterans Association Commander Roger Ramm and vice-commander Rich North. The money will be used for the Depot’s Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Basket Program, which provides food baskets for needy families during the holiday season.**

**(Above) Chaplain Gibson and Col. Malachowsky receive a \$1,000 check from Staff NCO’s Wives’ Club representatives Rosa Robertson, Rosalie Williams and Melissa Ximenez. The funds were raised through the Depot’s Thrift Shop and will also go to the food basket programs. “Marines should realize that the money spent at the Thrift Shop goes back to the Marines,” said Gibson.**

# Finance warns... Travel card misuse will lead to action

**CPL. THOMAS PERRY**  
*STAFF WRITER*

The Depot Finance Office has recently experienced an increase in customers who are both unfamiliar and unaware of Marine Corps regulations regarding government credit card use.

The Corps’ policy regarding the use of government credit cards is not new, but according to James L. Walker, officer-in-charge of the Depot’s Travel Section, many Marines are not properly informed, even though the regulations are “not really complicated.”

The Travel and Transportation Act of 1998 states that unless otherwise exempted, all DoD personnel are required to use the government-sponsored, contractor-issued charge card for all expenses arising from official government travel.

Although a traveler is required to use the government travel charge card, failure to do so will not be a basis for refusing to reimburse the traveler for otherwise appropriate charges. Not using the card, however, may subject the traveler to administrative or disciplinary action.

After four years of amendments and legislation, the Travel and Transportation Act of 1998 was fully adopted by the Marine Corps May 13, 2002, but Depot financial officials believe there are not enough Marines who understand and follow the



**“Marines are not being taught the rules and regulations of government travel cards.”**  
- James L. Walker, officer-in-charge of the Depot’s Travel Section

Marine Corps Order.

“Everyone that has the potential to travel [Temporary Additional Duty] through their command should be issued a government credit card upon arrival,” said Walker, a former Marine who spent 20 years in the Corps. “The Marine Corps Order requires government employees to use government credit cards while traveling with orders, but people have been getting lax. They need to know they are not using the cards properly.”

Walker believes that the responsibility of government credit card education falls on the senior Marines.

“Marines are not being taught the rules and regulations of government travel cards,” he said.

The official rules and regulations can be obtained from the Depot Finance Office or online in MCO 4600.40A.

An amendment to the initial Congressional act provides an exemption from mandatory use of the card for cards denied, can-

celed, or suspended by the card contractor or by the cardholder’s agency/organization. The exemption will not apply when cardholders cancel their own accounts.

“A lot of people think this is a local thing, but it’s not,” said Walker. “It is Marine Corps wide. People are going to have to comply whether they like it or not.”